

What Are Tire Pressure Legal Requirements?

Worksheet

Legal tire pressure requirements mandate proper inflation (typically 30–35 PSI for cars), checks every 2 weeks, and immediate repair of damage. Pressure affects braking distance and fuel consumption.

Questions

1. Legal tire pressure check minimum frequency?
 - A) Once per month
 - B) Once every 2 weeks
 - C) Once per week
 - D) Only before long trips
2. How does low tire pressure affect braking?
 - A) Improves braking
 - B) No change
 - C) Increases braking distance
 - D) Makes brakes harder
3. At what tire pressure difference is it illegal to drive?
 - A) 2 PSI under
 - B) 5 PSI under
 - C) Below 90% of recommended
 - D) Any amount
4. Winter tire pressure management?
 - A) Inflate more than summer
 - B) Keep same year-round
 - C) Check more often in cold
 - D) Deflate slightly for traction
5. A vehicle's recommended tire pressure is 32 PSI. If your tire reads 28 PSI, is it legal to drive?
6. How often must you legally check tire pressure?
7. Your tire has a 3mm puncture. Is it repairable, or must it be replaced?
8. Define: Legal tire pressure check frequency?
9. Define: How much below recommended pressure is illegal?
10. Define: Cold weather tire pressure effect?

Answer Key

1. B) Once every 2 weeks — Most regulations require checks at least every 2 weeks.
2. C) Increases braking distance — Low pressure → more heat → worse grip → longer stops.
3. C) Below 90% of recommended — Typically below 90% is illegal; 32 PSI → 28.8 PSI minimum.
4. C) Check more often in cold — Cold reduces pressure; check more frequently in winter.
5. Recommended pressure: 32 PSI Your tire pressure: 28 PSI Difference: 4 PSI under (12.5% low)
Legal status: Often illegal if below 90% of recommended; adjust immediately
6. Legal requirement: Minimum once every 2 weeks Best practice: Every 2 weeks or before long trips
Monthly check: Acceptable for routine driving Season changes: Always check — cold reduces pressure ~2 PSI
7. Puncture size: 3mm (small) Location: If on tread (not sidewall), often repairable Repair limit:
Typically <6mm holes can be patched Decision: Have a professional assess; if repairable, must be done before next drive
8. At least once every 2 weeks; more often in winter.
9. Typically below 90% of recommended (e.g., 28.8 PSI if 32 PSI recommended).
10. Pressure drops ~2 PSI for every 10°C (18°F) drop in temperature.

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